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THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION

1. A method of providing a user with real-time financial charting information on-line, the method comprising the steps of:

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obtaining real-time financial data;

transmitting said real-time financial data to a user's computer as a substantially continuous stream through an open connection via a computer network;

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generating a graph based on said real-time financial data that is viewable on the user's computer screen; and,

updating said graph based on new real-time financial data transmitted via the computer network whereby, in use, the user is able to readily observe changes in said real-time financial data substantially as they occur in a dynamic charting format.

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2. A method of providing a user with real-time financial charting information on-line as defined in claim 1, wherein said real-time financial data is transmitted via the world Wide Web (WWW) using HTTP protocol.

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3. A method of providing a user with real-time financial charting information on-line as defined in claim 2, wherein substantially continuous streaming of the real-time financial data is achieved by not specifying a content-length header in the HTTP response packet, so that the connection is not closed by the user's computer and transmission of said financial data continues as and when more data becomes available.

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4. A method of providing a user with real-time financial charting information on-line as defined in claim 2, wherein substantially continuous streaming of the real-time financial data is achieved by specifying a reasonably large value as the content-length of the HTTP response packet, such that transmission of said financial data continues until the amount of transmitted data reaches the specified length whereupon a new request/response

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exchange is initiated such that streaming of said financial data can carry on from the point it left off.

5. A method of providing a user with real-time financial charting information on-line as defined in claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the steps of: obtaining and transmitting historical financial data to the user's computer; and, generating said graph using said historical financial data as well as said real-time financial data.
6. A method of providing a user with real-time financial charting information on-line as defined in claim 5, wherein said historical data is compressed prior to transmission and decompressed after it is received at the user's computer.
7. A method of providing a user with real-time financial charting information on-line as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the method further comprises the step of installing a computer software charting module on the user's computer for generating said graph.
8. A method of providing a user with real-time financial charting information on-line as defined in claim 7, wherein said charting module is activated by means of a conventional Internet browser software programme installed on the user's computer.
9. A method of providing a user with real-time financial charting information on-line as defined in claim 8, wherein said charting module runs as a Java applet in the user's computer.
10. A method of providing a user with real-time financial charting information on-line as defined in claim 7, wherein said real-time financial data is stock market pricing information obtained from a Stock Exchange or other source, and said graph provides real-time intraday charting of movements in stock price.
11. A computer software charting module for installation on a user's computer, that enables a user to view real-time financial charting information on-line, the module

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enabling the user's computer to:

receive real-time financial data as a substantially continuous stream through an open connection via a computer network;

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generate a graph of said real-time financial data;

update said graph based on new real-time financial data transmitted via the computer network; and

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display said graph on the user's computer screen whereby, in use, the user is able to readily observe changes in said real-time financial data substantially as they occur in a dynamic charting format.

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12. A computer software charting module as defined in claim 11, wherein the module further enables the user's computer to: receive historical financial data; and, generate said graph using said historical financial data as well as said real-time financial data.

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13. A computer software charting module as defined in claim 12, wherein the module further enables the user's computer to store said historical data and real-time financial data locally.

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14. A computer software charting module as defined in claim 11, wherein the charting module enables the user's computer to re-scale the axes of the graph in order to ensure that the maximum and minimum values are visible when the graph is displayed on the user's computer screen.

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15. A computer software charting module as defined in claim 14, wherein the x-axis of the graph represents time, and the y-axis represents real-time stock market pricing information relating to specified stock obtained from the Stock Exchange or other source whereby, in use, said graph provides real-time intraday charting of movements in

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stock price.

16. A computer software charting module as defined in claim 15, wherein the module re-scales the x-axis according to the time of day such that the graph extends to the full extent of the graph area.

5 17. A computer software charting module a defined in claim 13, wherein the module enables zooming into specific regions of the graph through a click and drag interface, whereby clicking on the user's computer mouse and dragging it while the button is pressed dynamically forms a rectangle indicating the intended zoom area, and subsequent release of the button results in automatic re-scaling of the axes to draw said
10 zoom area in greater detail.

18. A computer software charting module as defined in claim 15, wherein the module calculates and/or plots other technical analysis graphs, such as Bollinger Bands, Moving Average Convergence/Divergence (MACD) and Relative Strength Indicators (RSI), simultaneously while the pricing information is being plotted on a main graph.

15 19. A computer software charting module as defined in claim 15, wherein the module provides dynamic visual cues while the graph is being generated to easily notify the user of specific events and important information.

20. A computer software charting module as defined in claim 15, wherein the module enables mouse movement of the cursor on the user's computer screen to be
20 tracked, highlights the closest point in the graph to the cursor where transactions have occurred and displays the data of the highlighted point.

21. A computer-readable storage medium having a computer software charting module as defined in any one of claims 11 to 20 stored thereon.

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